



A Fresno Amateur Radio Club Newsletter November, 2011 Volume 73, Issue 11

Our next meeting will be the second Friday, November 11, at Cedar Lanes. Come to the meeting and enjoy the camaraderie with your fellow hams.



The Prez Sez

FARC General Meetings

Are held the 2nd Friday of each month, 7 p.m. at Cedar Lanes unless otherwise noted.

2011 FARC BOARD MEETING DATES

1st Tuesday of each month
Cedar Lanes at
Cedar and Shields.

FARC Nets

Morning Drive Time Net:
Weekday mornings-7:30—
8:00 a.m.

W6TO/R 146.940

Tech Net:

Wednesdays @ 7:00 pm
W6TO/R 146.940

FARC Net:

Sundays @ 7:00 pm
W6TO/R 146.940

CQ from Tom, KG6KYU

The November meeting will be the club's annual swap meet. Vendors put their items on tables beginning at 6 P.M. and the doors will open at 7 P.M. for buyers. Come and see all the fine items at the Cedar Lanes Bowling Alley.



President Tom, KG6KYU

FARC Christmas Dinner, Dec 9th. The price is \$15.00 per person, (FARC is paying the difference) at the Yosemite Falls Café, Blackstone and Shaw. Time- 6:00 pm, dinner 6:30. Tri tip--Chicken--Salmon, your choice of one, rice and veggie, salad, drink, no bar,.... special food request call Tom.

Please email Jim @ jimerbe@ix.netcom.com or Tom @ kg6kyu@comcast.net 559- 916-2445
We need a head count, you can pay at the door.

And congratulations to the new board members!

73, Tom

Fresno Amateur Radio Club

FARC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FARC Officers:

Tom Jarvis, Pres. - KG6KYU	kg6kyu@w6to.com	(559) 916-2445	12/2011
Craig Carter V.P. - K6QI	k6qi@w6to.com	(559) 284-1722	12/2011
Jim Erbe, Sec. - W6NIF	w6nif@w6to.com	(559) 222-7524	12/2011
Ron Hunt, Treas - N6MTS	n6mts@w6to.com	(559) 289-8514	12/2012

Board Members:

Aaron Lusk, K6USY	k6usy@w6to.com	(559) 301-1022	12/2012
Ken Holden, —WA6OIB	wa6oib@w6to.com	(559) 323-6753	12/2012
Joseph Capell, W0PJD	W0PJD@me.com	(559) 225-3582	12/2011
Jack Baker, AC6LT	ac6lt@CVIP.net	(559) 297-4311	12/2012

Mark your calendars for every Thursday, for the lunch gathering at the *Silver Dollar Hofbrau* at the corner of Hwy 41 and Shaw. Gathering at 11:30 A.M. at a table reserved in the back room.

Breakfast on Mondays and Saturdays at the *Country Waffles* at Blackstone and Dakota starting at 7am.

Also Breakfast every Tuesday at *Yosemite Falls Cafe* at Blackstone and Shaw starting at 8am.

Join the DX'ers for breakfast on the first Sat. of the month at Carrows on Blackstone/Ashlan at 7 A.M. in the back room.

The Quarter Century Wireless Association Lunch is held on the fourth Tuesday of the month at Carrows on Blackstone.

Support our advertisers in SKIP. They support us not only in revenue for the club but they also allow us space on the counters and shelves for copies of SKIP and other club announcements.

Date Event

Nov. 5	Hidden TX Hunt 10 A.M. Meet at Hwy 41/145
Nov. 11	FARC Meeting-Swap
Dec. 9	FARC Winter dinner 6 P.M.

Sweepstakes CW November 5-6
Sweepstakes Phone Nov. 19-21
ARRL EME Nov. 19-20
CQWWDX CW Nov. 26-27
ARRL 160M Contest Dec. 2-4



Send Skip items to Skip editor John Morrice, K6MI at:
k6mi@pacbell.net

You can download this and past Skip issues under the Document Archive menu by visiting w6to.com.

Be a net control op! Contact Joe, WA6FFJ at:
joenailbender@earthlink.net

ARRL 10M Contest Dec. 9-13
Straight Key Night Dec. 31
ARRL RTTY Roundup Jan 7-8
VHF SS Jan. 21-22

Info for RST reports for the various digital modes:
<http://www.ea5hef.com/blog/?cat=1>

Corrections to last months Skip!

The adds for the estate sales went out on a separate email. Come and see the items at the November meeting.

November FARC meeting– Swap night Friday

November 11 at 7 P.M.

Christmas Dinner Friday Dec. 9th

CCDXC News

NEXT MEETING:

Saturday Dec. 3, 2011, at 11:30 AM at Apple Annie's in Tulare. Please mark your calanders!

FARC Christmas Dinner

Dec 9th, Club Meeting Night
The price is \$15.00 per person
Yosemite Falls Cafe, Blackstone and Shaw

6:00 pm meet and greet

Dinner 6:30

Tri tip--Chicken--Salmon, your choice of one: rice and veggie, salad, drink, no bar.... special food request call Tom

Please email Jim

@ jimerbe@ix.netcom.com or

Tom @ kg6kyu@comcast.net

559- 916-2445

Reserve a seat, pay at the door.

ARRL Section
Manager for the
SJV
Section.
Dan, AE6SX.



Thanks to Richard, KE6SHL, and Jim, W6NIF for providing the photographs included in SKIP.

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Membership Attendance award for Oct. was \$50. WD6DGR missed out. Who will be the next lucky Must be pre- sent to win.



Local Amateur Radio Repeaters

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Call Sign</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Offset</i>	<i>PL</i>
AARC	WB6QDN	146.610	-	NONE
CARP	K6ARP	147.675	-	141.3
CARP	N6JXL	224.380	-	141.3
CARP	K6ARP	444.725	-	141.3
CARP	NI6M	440.350	+	141.3
CONDOR	WB6BRU	224.900	-	156.7
FARC	W6TO	146.940	-	141.3
FARC	W6TO	223.940	-	141.3
FARC	W6TO	444.200	-	141.3
FRESNO	N6MTS	145.230	-	141.3
KINGS ARC	KA6Q	145.110	-	100.0
KJ6KO	KJ6JO	927.6625/902.0125	-	146.2
MADERA ARC	W6WGZ	147.180	+	146.2
MADERA ARC	W6WGZ	441.175	-	146.2
QCWA	WQ6CWA	146.850	-	141.3
QCWA	WQ6CWA	443.250	+	107.2
RACES	N6HEW	147.150	+	141.3
SJVARs	KE6JZ	146.820	-	141.3
TURLOCK ARC	W6BXN	147.030	+	100.0
W6NIF	W6NIF	444.100	+	100.0
WIN/SYSTEM	K6JSI	146.790	-	100.0

Birthdays:

11/05 K6NS Trip Pound
11/05 K6MI John Morrice
11/10 W6XC Berge Bulbulian

Anniversaries

11/05 Karen & Duane, KI6QEL
11/20 David, N6BYI

DX Breakfast

The next Fresno DX Breakfast is Saturday Nov. 5, 2011 at **Carrow's Restaurant, 4280 N. Blackstone** in Fresno. The group gathers between 0700 and 0800 hours. We have the back room until about 10:00 AM. The breakfast is the first Sat. of the month.

Dec. 3 is the next breakfast for the DX group.

"The only way to be loud....is to transmit."

DX is the one you do not have confirmed!!

DXing is 90% mental -- the other half is physical.
 N2MG

To check on foreign postage go to <http://www.k4hb.com/postage/html>

Ten meter net, CW and Phone, every Wednesday

7 P.M. for CW at 28.140

8 P.M. for SSB at 28.445

This is a local SJV net run by KF6ZXO.

Have fun checking in on one or both modes.

Also at 7 P.M. is our own FARC Tech Net, with AC6LT on the W6TO repeaters.

 Worth a look!

<http://www.flixy.com/japanese-tsunami-viewed-from-a-car.htm>

My Dirty Little Marriage Secret

Humor by WS6X

Considering my being happily married to the same woman for 46+ years, I figure there might be a lad or two who would be interested in a little known secret I've learned. Allow me start at the beginning.

Until recently, my wife and I used separate checking accounts. Her income went into her account, and my earnings into mine. Most of the household expenses were paid from her account, but occasionally I would pitch in a hefty chunk toward a major purchase. Since my XYL didn't take the time to pay much attention to my account, I managed to sequester a sizeable chunk of "ham radio pocket change." I ordered new equipment at my leisure, and as long as I was at the front door to greet the UPS truck, the new gear appeared on my desk with no one the wiser. No harm, no foul, right?

About two years ago we decided that two accounts were too much overhead, and agreed to consolidate. I was apprehensive about the sanctity of my "easy come, easy go" radio kitty, so I throttled back my spending. Knowing that some day I'd want to go deeper into the checking account, I decided to try a few modest amount practice runs... a couple of hundred dollars here and there. When all that went without comment, I began contemplating a major purchase – something like a third K3, an Alpha amplifier, or perhaps the new SteppIR DB42.

This morning, after my little sweetie went off to work, I was thumbing through the DX Engineering catalog when an incredible idea dawned! I ran to the back forty to our fruit-laden Granny Smith tree, quickly filled a huge dishpan, and within minutes I was cutting and coring. I soon had a large Dutch oven bubbling... well, let's cut to the chase. In less than one hour, I had made a three-quart batch of applesauce! Just to be clear, homemade applesauce is one of my XYL's favorites!

Right now I'm poised in the kitchen, waiting for her to open the door from the garage. Imagine her surprise at this royal welcome, "Hey honey, look what I done for love!" After she recovers from the shock and excitement of this unsolicited love-gift (I'll let her fawn over me for a few minutes.), I'll begin my approach... "You know sweetie, I was just looking at this new radio in the catalog." I guarantee, she'll be reaching for the checkbook before I finish the sentence!

Think about it. \$5000 for one hour of work. If my math is correct, that's \$5000 per hour! Seems like a no-brainer to me! Hmmm... What if I wanted something REALLY expensive?

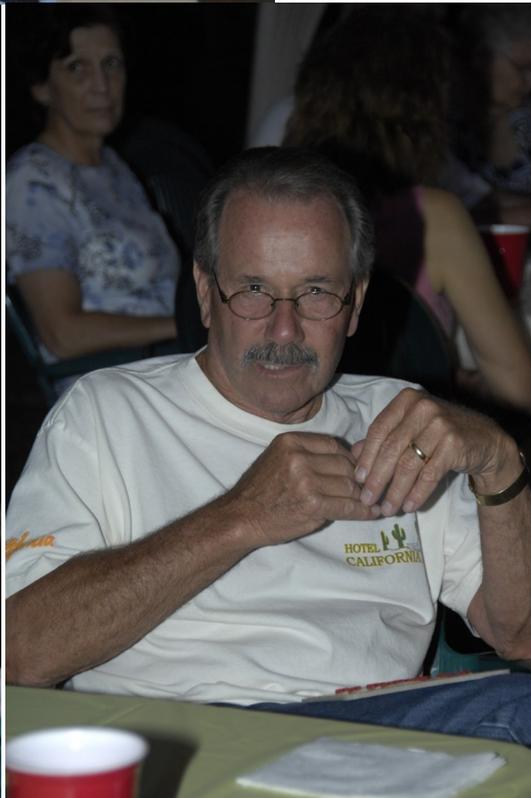


Fresno Amateur Radio Club

Pictures from the FARC Club Picnic in September Aaron (L) K6USY, Ed Esheim W6NCG, (R)



Thanks to Richard, KE6SHL, for these pictures. Jim, W6NIF (I) Ed, W6ZRU (R) Tom KG6KYU bottom left, and Bob Smith, KB6DI, bottom center.



Fresno Amateur Radio Club



These pictures show the tower stand made by Mike, W6YDE. The stand attaches to the tower where ever you need to work, making it a lot easier and safer to spend time up the tower. Last month's Skip showed pictures of the stand being made, and this month we feature the finished product.

Jim W6NIF reports:

Just an update for what's ahead. First, no one won the door prize last month. WD6DGR was drawn and not present for the \$50. So at the Christmas dinner, the door prize will be for \$60.00. Not too bad for a Christmas gift!

The Board of Directors for 2012 will be: Ron Hunt, Aaron Lusk, Ken Holden, Jack Baker, Jim Erbe(1year), Joe Capell, and Mark Ward(N6IB). There are 2 more Board meetings yet to go for this year. The November Board, I suppose, will select a President, Vice President and Secretary..

Doing great on DXing with what I have..Slovinia, Wales, Ireland, Canary Island, and so on...on 10 and 12 meters. Worked 120 DX stations in the CQWW Phone contest.

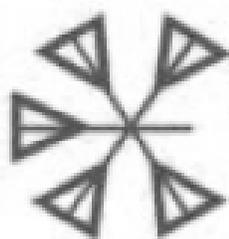
Here are pictures of graffiti that was on the WINsystem building and the building that has my repeater, 444.1Mhz in it.

The last shows the building in a nice, clean state.



The Begali's by Mike J Bavoso W6YDE

Every year at Dayton we check in with the makers of the wonderful Begali keys, a father and daughter team. A number of hams in Fresno have one or two Begali keys. These pictures are from their booth at Dayton.



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THE DX CORNER by Charles McConnell W6DPD

November 2011

DX is the one you don't have confirmed

If you want help with DX, you can contact the local members of the Central California DX Club for some assistance. Charles W6DPD 431-2038, Perry K6XJ 299-2802, or Jim WS6X 292-8353 can give you advice. The big thing about finding DX is to tune the bands. Check out the Central California DX Club Web page at http://www.ccdxc.org for information and useful links.

The local DX'ers meet on the first Saturday of the month for breakfast at Carrow's, 4280 N. Blackstone in Fresno. The group gathers between 0700 and 0800. All are welcome.

Check out www.spaceweather.com and www.solarham.com for information on the solar cycle. The higher the solar flux and the lower the A and K Indices, the better the band conditions. The sun is not cooperating by providing sunspots at this time; there are lots of blank days.

The address of the Sixth District QSL Bureau is P. O. Box 970, Fairfax CA 94978-0970. You can send up to 10 address labels and \$0.70 for each envelope to the address above. They will put 1 unit of First Class postage on the envelope. If you work DX, you should have envelopes at the bureau so you can get your cards.

The ARRL Outgoing QSL Service has raised the rates for sending ARRL members QSL cards to foreign countries. The new rate is \$2 for up to 10 cards in one envelope, \$3 for 11 to 20 cards in one envelope and 75 cents per ounce for more than 20 cards.

Postage rates around the world are constantly changing. To see current rates go to http://www.qsl.net/w9ol/IRC_Chart.htm where you can find the current postal rates for most of the countries of the world. IRCs can be ordered online from the US Post Office. To check on foreign postage, you can go to http://www.k4hb.com/postage.html. To learn about addressing envelopes to everywhere in the world, go to http://www.columbia.edu/~fdc/postal/ for a discussion and examples. IMPORTANT. U.S. Postage rates increase on January 22, 2012. First Class Letters

will be \$0.45. Postcards will be \$0.32. Letters to Canada and Mexico will be \$0.85. Letters to other countries will be \$1.05. There is no word on a cost increase for IRCs.

If you don't get a DX Bulletin and you belong to ARRL, you should register on the members only web page and check the box for the ARRL DX Bulletin. This one is emailed each Thursday. Or you can go to the ARRL web page in the News/ Bulletin section and view the bulletins there. You can also read the OPDX Bulletin or the 425 DX Bulletin on the web. Search OP DX Bulletin or 425 DX Bulletin to get the URL. You can subscribe to the Daily DX, Weekly DX or QRZ DX too. These bulletins will keep you informed of DX operations and QSL information.

The following operations are scheduled:

- Afghanistan T6SH now through November 2011
- Djibouti J28AA now for at least a year
- Djibouti J28JV soon for at least a year, maybe 2
- Djibouti J28UC July to 2013
- Angola D2CQ February 2010 for a few years.
- Gough Island ZD9GI October 2010 for 1 year
- Papua New Guinea P29CW February to December 2011
- Midway Island, KH4/W5FJG May 29, 2011 for 1 year
- Ascension Island ZD8D maybe an October 2011 start
- Cocos Keeling VK9CX October 19 to November 9, 2011
- Senegal 6V7Q October 22 to November 11, 2011
- Fiji 3D2T October 25 to November 8, 2011
- Central African Republic TL0CW Oct. 25 to Nov. 6, 2011
- St. Pierre & Miquelon FP/KV1J Oct. 24 to Nov. 1, 2011
- Tuvalu T2T November 10 to December 6, 2011
- Marquesas TX7M October 19 to November 1, 2011 TX5A for CQWW SSB Contest
- French Polynesia TX3T Nov.1 to November 4, 2011
- North Cook E51 November 8 to November 22, 2011
- Nepal 9N0MD November 8 to November 22, 2011
- Nauru C21A November 10 to December 6, 2011
- Madagascar 5R8IC November 15 to December 17, 2011
- American Samoa KH8 November 17 to Nov. 28, 2011
- Kenya 5Z4HW November 20 to December 3, 2011
- Palestine E44PM between 2nd - 3rd week of Dec. 2011
- TOGO 5V7MA December 19, 2011 to January 4, 2012
- Bonaire PJ4C January 12 to January 23, 2012
- South Pacific Tour January 12 to February 23, 2012
- Conway Reef 3D2/C postponed to 2012
- Jarvis Island KH5 Postponed to Nov.-Dec. 2012
- Pitcairn Island VP6T January 20 to January 29, 2012
- Malpelo HK0NA January 24 to February 8, 2012

Heard Island VK0/H February 2013 in planning stages

Watch the DX Bulletins for up to date information. As the time for the operation is at hand, watch the DX Summit (www.dxsummit.fi) for listings. There are a number of state QSO parties each year. Check the contest corral in QST or the ARRL web page. State QSO parties are a good place to collect states for your Worked All States award. ARRL Log Book of the World now supports the Worked All States Award.

Good luck, tune the dial, and listen.

Transmitter Hunt November 5th

The next scheduled Transmitter Hunt sponsored by CARP will on Saturday November 5th, 2011. We will starting from a different location this time around. The Start Point will be the parking area on the south-west corner of Highways 41 and 145. The hunt will begin at 10:00am.

Please don't get discouraged if you don't have any fancy or expensive direction finding equipment. No matter what your equipment or skill level is come on out and we will all have a good time. In fact, we will be experimenting with implementing classifications for hunters by equipment types. We also look forward to your comments and suggestions on how to make transmitter hunting in the Central Valley more fun.

Get your T-Hunting gear out, tell your friend and lets have some fun hunting the fox! Remember, you don't have to be a licensed ham to participate in transmitter hunting. Rob, AE6GE

E Waste Collection Fresno Fairgrounds

Location -Entrance Gate Kings Canyon Entrance Upcoming Dates: November 26 Bring your e-waste to The Fresno Fairgrounds From 8:00am - 2:00pm Drop off electronic waste at NO CHARGE! E-waste is no longer accepted at the landfill and is often expensive to recycle. No limit to how many items you can bring to recycle. Broken or un-broken recyclables accepted. Free Recycling of any item with a cord including:

LCD TV's & Monitors Laptops Plasma Screens Televisions Computer Towers Printers PDA's DVD Players Copy Machines Fax Machines Calculators Keyboards Stereo Systems Speakers Computer Mice Telephones Cell Phones VCR's

*Items containing Freon, washers/dryers, batteries and light bulbs will not be accepted. Location:

Enter the parking lot off of Kings Canyon Boulevard, just east of Chance Avenue. (Gate 6)

For more information call (559) 650-FAIR

FRESNO ENCOMM ARES/RACES by Glen Caine N6HEW

NET: Monday 1930 hrs on 147.150+, PL 141.3

Monthly: The 4th Thursday of each Month, Salvation Army Citadel, 1854 N. Fulton 1900 hrs.

EmComm and Coffee: 0830 hrs, 3rd Friday Yosemite Falls Cafe on Blackstone and Shaw

Web:

www.fresnoares.com or www.fresno-races.net. Email at info@fresnoares.com Don't forget the Monday Night Emcomm Net at 1930 hr. on the 147.15 MHz pl 141.3 We have some good information and camaraderie on the net. On the third Friday of the month there is a Emcomm breakfast at YFC just north of Shaw on Blackstone at 0830hr and last but not least the Emcomm meeting on the fourth Thursday of the month at 1900 hr at the Salvation Army Citadel at 1854 Fulton St Fresno.

Fresno ARES/RACES EC Report for Novmber 2011

This month was rather busy; we had five Monday night Emcomm nets, and one third Friday morning Emcomm Breakfast. We participated in the JOTA (Jamboree on the Air) with the Boy Scouts. This was held at the Salvation Army Citadel, the boys had a ball and so did the three operators.

Several of our members helped with the **Off The Front Bike Race**. This was a 100 mile race that started at the Trinity Church in Clovis then went up to Bass Lake and back to the church. We operated 2 nets and kept track of the participants and alerted staffers of any problems on the course.

We participated in **The Great Shake Out** exercise; this was a state wide effort. At the Citadel we ducked and covered, then evacuated the building. We then resumed our position in the EOC and opened a net. Several members checked in from either work or home with their status and availability. We tried to contact Kings and Tulare County ARES to no avail. All and all

this was a good exercise.

Our meeting was held on the fourth Thursday, we had 14 members show. We went over old and new business and had a fine program. Lew Roberts (KI6YWX) gave a demonstration of a home brew pneumatic antenna launcher. He shared the construction and parts availability. Sounded like a great project. Chris Johnson (KJ6OUG) went over the **SET Exercise** to be held next month. It will be with 2 of our served agencies, Blood Bank and Kaiser Hospital. This should be held on a Saturday in November.

Coming up in the near future we have **The Two Cities Marathon**, this will be held on November 6th. The race will start at Woodward Park; travel through Clovis and back to the park. We have about 18 members taking part in this one. December 21 is the **Salvation Army Toy and Food Distribution**. We will be helping with traffic control for this again this year. As I said this is a busy time of the year.

Best of 73's

GLEN CAINE (N6HEW)

Fresno County RACES officer

Fresno County ARES EC

559-999-7590

N6hew@att.net



Varouj Kalinian, N6DBH

For a change, this month, I thought that we might feature a local ham who years ago might have been one of the coveted DX stations that we seek out on HF.

Varouj Kalinian, N6DBH was born in Beirut, Lebanon in 1934. He had a brother who was an aviation electrician and got him interested in electronics in general. There was a war in 1958 which imposed radio silence in the region but when it was allowed again, he got a Marconi receiver and began SWLing. He already had a college degree but took a correspondence course from National Technical School in Los Angeles in English, of course, and got a technical degree. He heard a really strong signal on the ham bands and found it was a local ham. He found the address and went to the apartment of OD5AG who was an electronics engineer and became his mentor to get his ham license in 1959 as OD5CS.

He built his first radio from the course which was a 6AG7 and a 6L6 running about 30 watts on crystal control.

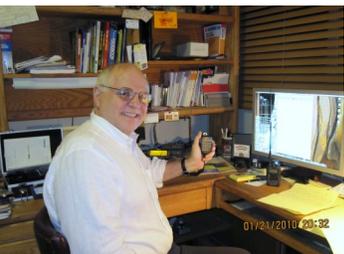
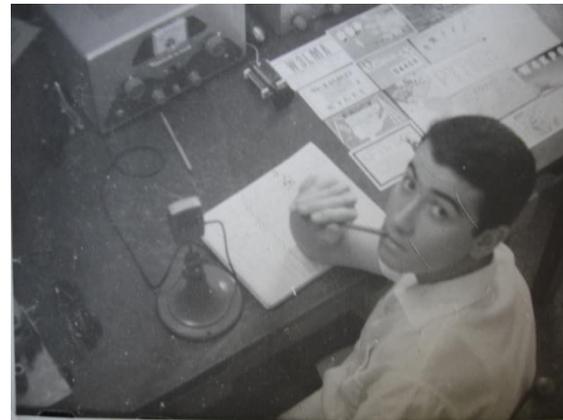
He upgraded to a HeathKit DX 40 and the outboard VF-1 VFO which took six months to ship from Benton Harbor to Beirut and another two month to clear customs. He found this old picture shown here and told me that the microphone was an old fan base and a tape recorder mic.

His career turned to commercial broadcast and sound engineering.

He tells the story of moving to the US. He had always wanted to come to this country. His father had lived here in the early 1900's, and spoke of it often.

In June 1974, he realized he was tired of the many wars in his part of the world and sensed that another was coming. He had a wife and a daughter and moved quickly to avoid the next one which lasted fifteen years. He avoided not only that one, but three more in the areas since he left.

He ended up in Fresno. He learned to make stealth antennas in his first apartment since anything visible was prohibited. He was eventually able to purchase a home with a yard. He tells me that for him, "yard" meant "radio tower", to his wife, it meant lawn, and shade. He met Ralph Saroyan, W6JPU and soon got his novice license in the US with the call letters, KA6KFY and traveled to San Francisco to take his general class with his present call now 31 years ago. He has since upgraded.



Joe Capell, W0PJD, Skip bio writer

Fresno Amateur Radio Club

In this country his professional career involved working for Larry Webster repairing and selling amateur radio equipment after first working for Don Cook at his communications shop. You might recognize these fellows as ham radio connections.

He then taught at Fresno City College in Radio/TV/and electronics.

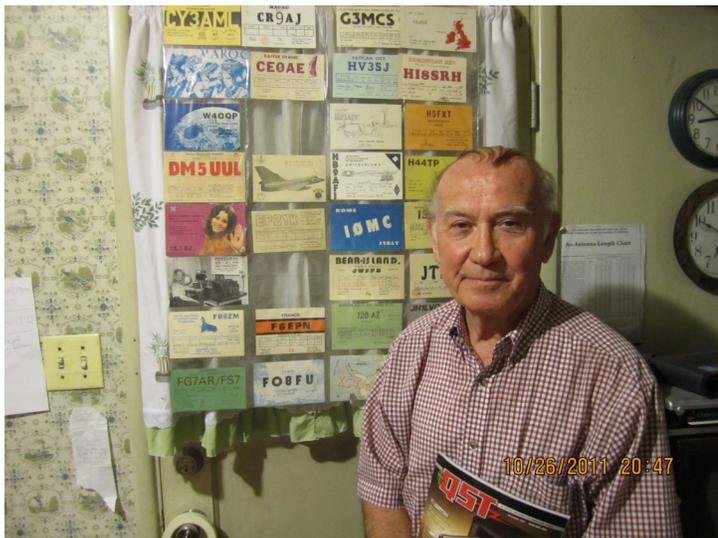
After becoming a citizen, he was able to sit for the first class commercial radiotelephone license and then worked at Channel 18 starting in 1981 and stayed with that station for 13 years.

His last job before retiring was teaching and interpreting Arabic with the Selma Unified School district where he also was involved in sound productions.

He retired in 2002 but could not keep his hand out of work and now is on call for certified interpreting in Armenian, French, and Arabic.

I asked Varouj what his favorite aspect of ham radio might be and he told me three things: Antennas (especially experimenting), DXing and electronics swap meets.

He has been a member of FARC continuously since he moved to Fresno.



**Varouj
N6DBH**



Fresno Amateur Radio Club

I think I already wrote about the CARP swap meet, and how I missed out on a MFJ code tutor. Well, a friend found one for me on e-bay, and I got it. I am attaching a picture of the front page of the manual. It is quite a handy item. I got the code speed set where I want it, and it sends 5 letter groups and it is very clear. the display is reversible-show first, then audio, or audio first, then show. I like audio first.

What is nice is that you can take a break, listen to the code characters, and work on whatever speed you want and get the code reception down that way. As Samuel F. B. Morse said "What hath God Wrought!" Well, obviously MFJ had a hand in it too. It is a lot of fun.



STUART

Info on Grounding

Check your local codes on what's required for lightning grounding, but something in the AWG4 to AWG10 is typical. Lightning has high currents, but they only last a few tens of microseconds.

NEC requires, as a general thing, AWG6 for bonding various grounds together. They're mostly concerned about something like a power line short to your structure. AWG 6 carries enough current to trip the breakers.

RF grounding is a whole other issue. Then you're really talking about part of your antenna system, and you need to address that.

A couple things to remember:

inductance is mostly about length. Diameter and surface area and such have a very, very weak effect.

AC resistance is dominated by skin effect: diameter and surface area have a huge effect.

The lightning case is dominated by inductance, so resistance isn't a big deal.

The power line safety case is dominated by DC resistance, so cross sectional area is the important thing.

RF ground for HF is dominated by AC resistance (inductance gets tuned out in your matching arrangement), so that's where you want flat strap, etc.

AM broadcast towers use flat strap because they need low AC resistance, and if it happens to be a decent lightning ground, all the better.

1/4 wavelength vertical antenna performance is sensitive to losses in grounding: use strap/ribbon. (not the case for 1/2 wavelength verticals)

Your internal shack ground is mostly about DC resistance and partly inductance. Strap doesn't buy you much from an electrical performance standpoint, but it is easier to hook up to than something round

Fresno Amateur Radio Club



Editor John, K6MI (red shirt with antenna), and Duane, KI6QEL.

Just in the last week we heard that three long time hams in this area passed away. It is with great fondness that we remember Jack Boghosian, W6WXZ, Ed Cutler, KC6LPL, and Harvey "Smitty" Smith, WB6EYC.

Jack was 89 years young, and was a very fast cw operator who would often be found on 40M cw. I had a number of qso's with him over the years, and had to ask him to slow down as I couldn't keep up with his 40 WPM speed. He would make contact after contact in an evenings session.

Ed Cutler was 95, and was also active on the air and also attending the QCWA meet-

ings. He was an Elmer to many hams who grew up in Fresno, and I hope to get some stories about him from his friends.

Smitty was 92, and for many decades was active on 52.525 Mc. FM, as well as 2M FM. I can remember talking to him along with Al, WB6HYL, in the 60's on that 6M FM frequency. I still monitor there. With the rise in sunspots, maybe we will again have some excitement up there.

This last month has certainly been one of the most exciting ham radio months in maybe eight years. Six opened up a few times, with Robert, KR7O finally passing the 100 country mark with qso's with TX7M, FK, A35, and a few others. Benny, KW6N and I worked the TX7 and FK stations as well. W6DPD and K6XJ worked the E51CG and FK8CP.

In fact, working the DXpeditions on many bands and modes turned out to have quite a few Fresno hams having exciting times all month. T32C, TX3T, TX7M, 3D2R, and 3XY1D (and a few more) were all going at nearly the same time. Arlen, WB6VAF, astounded us all (and himself as well) working the DX on band after band, with just a wire or a vertical. Jerry, K6PKO, who has worked it all before, couldn't help himself and worked it all over again. He has a great dipole up for the 17 and 12M bands. At least that is something new for him.

Charles, W6DPD, amazed me with a huge score in the CQWW DX Phone contest (details on another page). There were stations on 10M all the way from 28.3 to 28.9Mc. In just a couple of hours I worked 62 countries with 150 contacts. Many of our local hams were working DX, and the band was so big that we didn't even bump into each other. I think Duane, KI6QEL said he worked 30 new countries.

The antenna work here at K6MI is progressing, and the end is even in sight. The new 15M 5 element is on the tower, as well as the 3 el. 12M (which needs some adjusting for SWR). The 10M 7 el. Is ready to go up next. Much of the month was spent with making a tip over fixture to attach to the tower. And then the coax was measured and connectors put on.

Connectors on coax have always been a pain for me. It took at least a half hour per connector, and all sorts of tools, and until recently, half the time I would forget the shield, and have to do it again. On UHF bands it was easier with the crimp on N connectors. But I read in the latest CQ magazine a review of new products at Dayton about a crimp on tool for PL-259's, and promptly ordered one. Now I can do a connector in 20 minutes, still with a lot of tools, and didn't forget a single shield in the dozen connectors I did this month.

I was just waiting for the T32C DXpedition to go on PSK, and they did. However, it was PSK63, not PSK31! The pile up was growing, and I was sure that I'd never get another chance. What to do? My program only had PSK31... I had to download a new program and try to learn how to operate it before the station went off the air. Ha, these programs are not that intuitive! But I did manage to get Digipan installed, and got the QSO. Now I've got a new mode, but still need to learn a lot about it.

And JT65a is the next one I need to learn. Anyone able to give me some lessons?

Hope to hear everyone on SS this next month.

73, (nr 1 Q K6MI 63 SJV)

P.s. Please send me your story of your ham adventures!

Fresno Amateur Radio Club

Reports from our hams on the air this last month:

Makrothen RTTY Contest

Operator: N2NS Class: SO/Single Xcvr LP

QTH: DM06 Operating Time (hrs): ~1

Summary: Band QSOs 15M: 21

Total: 21 Total Score = 126,766

Comments: Stumbled into this contest while hanging out waiting for T32C to come up on RTTY Saturday morning. There seemed to be lots of EU's playing. Scoring is like the Stew Perry, based on the distance between your station and the ones you work. Nice easy opportunity to work need EU's for RTTY DXCC credit, if one's interested.

FT-897/100 watts, MMTTY, Navigator digital interface, 6 el M2 KT-36 tribander at 56' Bob N2NS

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB Oct. 28-29 2011

Call: N2NS Class: SOSB/15 HP Operating Time (hrs): 1

Summary: Band QSOs Zones Countries

15m: 50 14 18

Total: 50 14 18 Total Score = 3,488

Comments: Got on the air one hour before end of contest. Attempted to run on 15m, but the band had wall to wall signals, so did some S&P-ing as I went up/down the band in search of a clear freq. (Not much luck in that, as when I THOUGHT I'd found a clear spot, ask 'is the frequency clear?' a couple times, hear nothing, then start CQ-ing, I'd almost always find someone slowly coming up underneath me. But nice to have a CROWDED band on 15m after what seemed a never ending solar minimum! Lots of long haul DX in all directions, but at the time I was on, the noise level seemed to be more elevated than optimum. Looking at the country/zone totals already posted by several club members, it must have been an epic high band weekend. Congrats to all.

Orion II, Alpha 87A, N1MM logger, 6 el M2 KT-36XA tribander up 56'.

Bob Hervatine N2NS

W6DPD CQWW DX Phone Oct 28-29 2011 Category Single OP Assisted High Power All Band SSB

Band	QSOs	PTs	DXC	ZN
------	------	-----	-----	----

14	62	180	46	23
----	----	-----	----	----

21	102	290	59	25
----	-----	-----	----	----

28	148	419	65	24
----	-----	-----	----	----

Total	312	889	170	72
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Score: 215,138 Time 11:52 hours Radio: YAESU FT 2000D, QUADRA Antenna: Force 12 5BA

CQP Oct. 3-4 2011 Operator: W6DPD Single Op All Band Low Power SSB

County: FRES Club: Fresno Amateur Radio Club

Band	QSOs	Pts	Mult
------	------	-----	------

3.5	10	20	0
-----	----	----	---

7	16	32	1
---	----	----	---

14	26	52	9
----	----	----	---

21	32	64	10
----	----	----	----

28	36	72	14
----	----	----	----

Total	120	240	34
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Score 8,160 Radio: FT 2000D Antenna: Force 12 5 BA, Hygain 2BDQ

Ten meters was good for a change.

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB Call: NA6G Class: SOAB LP

Summary: Band QSOs Zones Countries

40: 5 3 4

20: 29 20 20

15: 30 16 15

10: 82 30 19

Total: 146 69 58 Total Score = 50,038

Had fun. I have an R7000 vertical and low power so it took some time to get through the pileups. It was much better than last year.

2011 AMATEUR RADIO EXAMS

UNLICENSED THRU EXTRA CLASS
Sponsored By the FRESNO Volunteer Exam (VE) TEAM
And The
FRESNO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE

Exams for all Amateur license classes will be conducted on the following date in Fresno California. All exams are given on Saturday and begin at 9:30 AM.

Nov 12

LOCATION:Bonaventure Mobile Home Park, 1724 Minnewawa Ave Clovis CA 93612-2545. Exams are held in the community room.

DIRECTIONS: From Highway 99 South of Fresno, exit Clovis Ave. Go north to Shaw and turn left on Shaw to Minnewawa. Turn right on Minnewawa and then left to the Mobile Home Park.. From Highway 41 or Highway 99 North of Fresno, take Shaw Ave. exit, turn right (East), to Minnewawa Ave and turn left. Then turn left into the Mobile Home Park.

Theory exams are multiple choice. Priority mail is used to send paperwork to ARRL, who sends data to FCC via electronic mail, thus assuring the fastest possible service on new licenses, which typically arrive in about two weeks.

BRING. Two ID's, one with photo. Taxpayer ID Number (Social Security Number), or FCC Registration Number (preferred). Fee \$15.00 per test session. Bring Exact change. **Original** and **copy of Amateur License** if upgrading. Talk in on 146.94 repeater.

Walk in's only, no pre-registration.

More Info?? Contact Charles, (559) 431-2038

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Name _____	Date _____
Address _____	Call sign _____
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Business Phone _____	
Occupation _____	Birth Date _____
Spouses Name _____	Anniversary Date _____
License Class _____	First Year Licensed _____
Email Address _____	ARRL Y __N__ QWCA ____
I am interested in serving on one of the committees. Please contact me with more details. _____	
FARC – PO BOX 5912, FRESNO, CA 93755-5912	

**Upcoming 2011
Fresno Amateur Radio
Club
Activities and Events**

Meetings on the 2nd Friday of the month

FD on the 4th full weekend in June

Banquet Dinner next December

Club Picnic in summer

Annual swap meet at the November meeting



FRESNO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
P.O. Box 5912
Fresno, CA 93755-5912

Send To: